

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasunao MIURA, Tomio MINOBE

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: January 15, 2002

Docket No.: 111674

For: METHOD OF FABRICATING HONEYCOMB BODY AND DRIVING SYSTEM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting a part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.

Please add new claim 15 as follows:

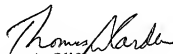
--15. A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 10, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting a part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 15 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 12 is amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claim 15 is added to compensate for the material deleted from claim 12. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Thomas J. Pardini  
Registration No. 30,411

JAO:TJP/mlb  
Attached: Appendix  
Date: January 15, 2002

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 15 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

12. (Amended) A system for drying at least a honeycomb body according to claim 9-~~or~~10, further comprising water-removing means for preventing water drips from attaching on that surface of the transparent partitioning wall constituting a part of the drying bath which is nearer to the drying bath.

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